



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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WILDLIFE VALUE ECONOMIC AS WELL AS RECREATIONAL

This is the time of year when vacationists are consciously aware that the Nation's wildlife resources are worth millions of dollars annually for recreation purposes, but officials of the Fish and Wildlife Service point out that wildlife also plays an economically important role in agricultural and forestry practices, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes said today.

The value of wildlife to Americans is shown in a leaflet printed by the Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit. Although written to show the importance of wildlife to the Pine Tree State, the text is applicable to other sections of the country, officials said.

The total value of food and fur from game, fish, and fur animals in Maine was estimated conservatively to be approximately \$1,000,000 annually. At least 3,000,000 pounds of fish are taken from fresh water lakes and streams each year by sportsmen, the leaflet reveals, and many of the lakes are not heavily fished. This does not include the value of commercial fisheries in that State.

Farmers are particularly benefited by wildlife, the leaflet points out. Based on studies by W. L. McAtee, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, estimates used by the authors indicate that the value of wildlife in controlling injurious insects is more than \$1,000,000 annually.

Birds are well-known allies of farmers. The feathered creatures consume large quantities of insects and weed seeds. Birds are also benefactors in repressing and controlling injurious insect outbreaks in forest areas. Smaller mammals, too, do their share in ridding the soil of insects and other pests.

What farmers and sportsmen can do to improve woodlands in the interest of wildlife without excessive cost or sacrifice is suggested in the leaflet.

Written by C. M. Aldous, leader of the Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, and A. D. Nutting, extension forestry specialist of the University of Maine, the leaflet, entitled "Wildlife in Maine," is available to the public upon request until the present supply is depleted. Copies may be obtained by writing to the Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, at Orono, Maine, or to the Commission of Inland Fisheries and Game, Augusta, Maine.

The Cooperative Unit is financially sponsored by the University of Maine, the Maine Commission of Inland Fisheries and Game, the American Wildlife Institute, and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

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